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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

Nuclear capability of South Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 6 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/34 A, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Calls upon South Africa to comply fully with the implementation of its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

"2. Also calls upon South Africa to disclose all its nuclear installations and materials in conformity with its treaty obligations, and to enhance confidence-building, peace and security in the region;

"3. Calls upon all States, corporations, institutions and individuals not to engage in collaboration with South Africa that may lead it to violate its commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

"4. Requests the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure early implementation of the safeguards agreement in accordance with resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/567 adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the measures taken by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to verify the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and materials;

"6. Urges all Member States to assist and cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Director General to this end;

"7. Commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he rendered effective assistance to the Organization of African Unity in organizing the meeting of the group of experts;

"8. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Secretary-General has been in contact with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to obtain the relevant information that would be of assistance in the preparation of his report.

3. In response to the Secretary-General's inquiry, the Director General of IAEA has informed him that at its thirty-sixth regular session, the General Conference of the Agency adopted a resolution, on 25 September 1992, concerning the nuclear capabilities of South Africa (GC(XXXVI)/RES/577), which is submitted herewith with the text of the report of the Director General to the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Conference (see annexes I and II).

ANNEX I

Resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/577 on the nuclear capabilities of South Africa, adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its 351st plenary meeting, on 25 September 1992

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling its resolutions GC(XXVII)/RES/408, GC(XXVII)/RES/423, GC(XXIX)/RES/442, GC(XXX)/RES/468, GC(XXXI)/RES/485, GC(XXXII)/RES/503, GC(XXXIII)/RES/524, GC(XXXIV)/RES/545 and GC(XXXV)/RES/567 on South Africa's nuclear capabilities,

(b) Recalling also that South Africa acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 10 July 1991 and that its safeguards agreement with the Agency in connection with the Treaty entered into force on 16 September 1991, and

(c) Stressing once more that full disclosure on South Africa's nuclear installations and materials is essential to the peace and security of the region and to the success of efforts exerted towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, which is the basis of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session, held at Cairo from 17 to 21 July 1964, and of resolution 46/34 B of 9 December 1991 of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director General on the implementation of the safeguards agreement between the South African Government and the Agency, including the verification of the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material, pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/567;

2. Requests South Africa to continue to cooperate with the Agency in the implementation of the safeguards agreement;

3. Requests the Director General to assist the African States in their efforts towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa; and

4. Further requests the Director General to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its thirty-seventh regular session under an agenda item entitled "The denuclearization of Africa".

ANNEX II

Report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material submitted to the thirty-sixth session of the IAEA General Conference

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 September 1991, the Government of South Africa concluded with IAEA a comprehensive safeguards agreement (INFCIRC/394) in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Subsequently, in General Conference resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/567, the Director General was requested "to verify the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material and to report to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference". A similar request was made of the Secretary-General by the General Assembly of the United Nations in November 1991 (resolution 46/34 A).

2. Following the receipt by the Agency of South Africa's initial report on all nuclear material subject to safeguards under the agreement, a team of senior members of the Department of Safeguards was appointed. During the period December 1991 to August 1992 members of the team had three meetings with officials of the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa (AEC) in South Africa and two meetings at Vienna. At the request of the team, the historical operating and accounting records of these South African facilities selected by the team were audited by Agency inspectors during their inspections of these facilities.

II. COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES

3. The team's activities were carried out with the cooperation of the South African authorities, who provided access to all the facilities and locations in South Africa that the team requested to visit, including decommissioned facilities and locations involved in current research projects. In addition to the initial report, AEC produced a "Report on the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and nuclear material as of 30 September 1991", which provided an extensive summary of historical flows and balances, production, and transfers of nuclear material in South Africa's uranium enrichment, conversion and fuel fabrication plants, as well as information on imports of enriched and depleted uranium.

4. The initial assistance offered by South Africa, namely, the submission of operating records of the decommissioned Pilot Enrichment Plant, was welcomed but was not considered to be sufficient by the Agency team. Accordingly South Africa also agreed to provide:

(a) The accountancy and operating records of the decommissioned Pilot Enrichment Plant including electricity consumption. The data on electricity consumption was available for the years since 1980;

(b) The accountancy and operating records of the Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plan before September 1991;

(c) The historical flows of nuclear material, including all imported material; and

(d) Historical values of material unaccounted for (MUF), as determined by AEC for the purposes of financial control.

5. Although comprehensive safeguards agreements require that records be preserved for only five years, many of the records of the South African plants go back to the middle of the 1970s and, fortunately, had not been destroyed. In view of the large amount of data, the team made an overall consistency check on a random basis and carried out detailed reviews of specific periods of the plants' operation when fluctuations in production had taken place.

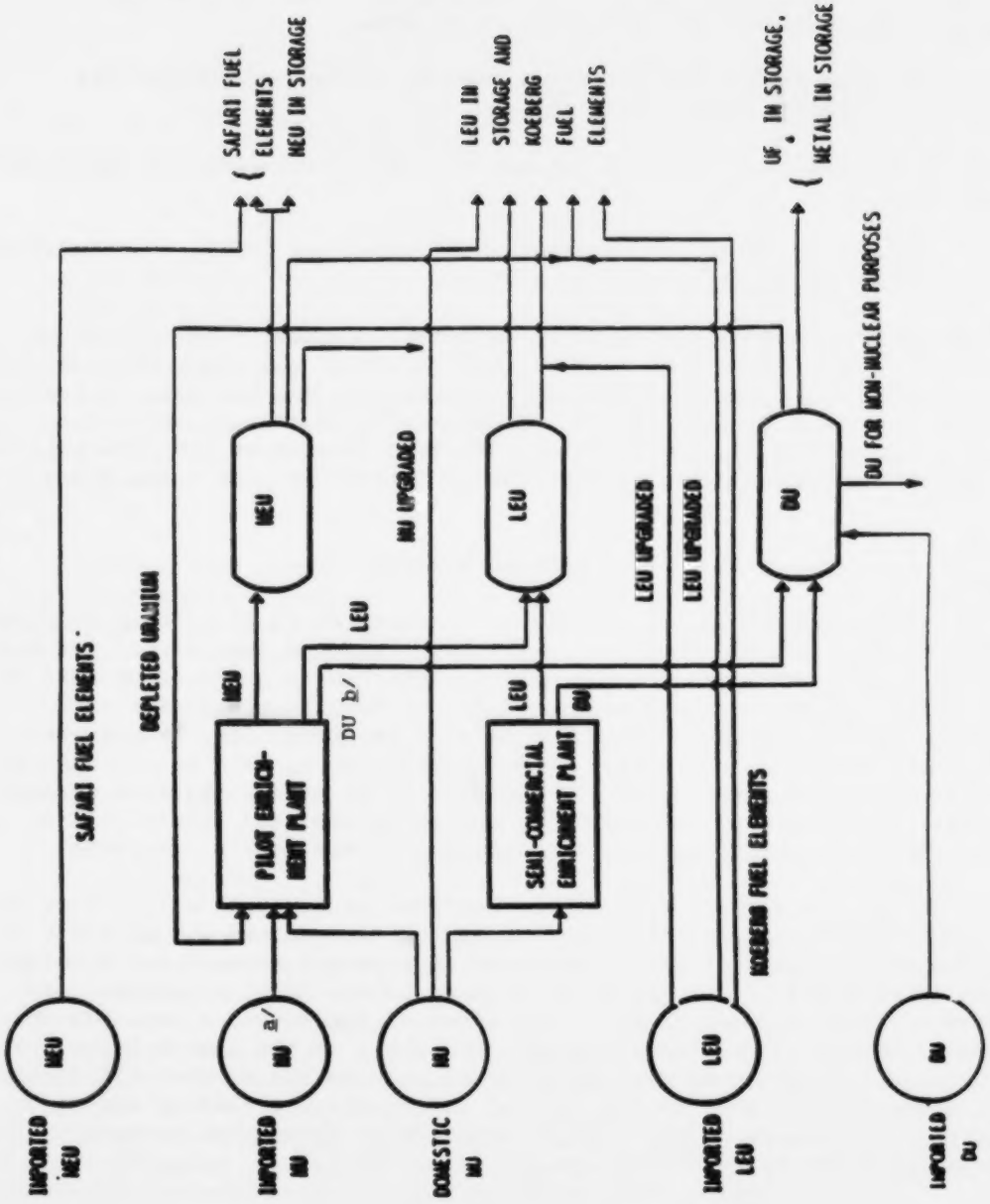
III. GENERAL APPROACH

6. The team concentrated its activities on those South African facilities which had been used for the production of high enriched uranium, 20 per cent or greater U-235, (HEU) and those facilities which were still being used for the production of low enriched uranium (LEU) or for the conversion and fabrication of HEU and LEU. The South African reactors, i.e., the Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant and the SAFARI Research Reactor, as well as the Hot-Cell Complex at Pelindaba, were under INFCIRC-66/(Rev.2) type safeguards agreements since their construction (INFCIRC/98 of September 1967 and INFCIRC/244 of February 1977) and were therefore not included in the team's programme.

7. To confirm the completeness of the declared South African inventory of HEU and LEU, the team calculated U-235 balances and carried out an audit of the accountancy records of the plants used to produce, convert and fabricate enriched uranium and of the operating records of the Pilot Enrichment and Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plants. The flows of imported and domestic uranium in relation to the two enrichment plants are shown in the figure below. The correctness of the declared amounts of total uranium and uranium-235 in the various materials included in the initial report was verified by Agency inspectors as is required when a State concludes a safeguards agreement in accordance with NPT (INFCIRC/153, paras. 71(a) and 72).

Figure

Uranium flows



a/ NU = natural uranium.

b/ DU = depleted uranium.

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8. To confirm the completeness of the inventory of nuclear installations, visits were made to the facilities stated by the South African authorities to be concerned with the production and use of enriched uranium on the AEC site at Pelindaba, to a number of other locations on the Pelindaba site and to a location in the immediate vicinity identified by the Agency, to the Vaalputs National Waste Repository of AEC in the north-western Cape Province, to the Nuclear Fuels Corporation (NUFCOR) ore concentrate conversion facility near Johannesburg, and to a location at Vastrap in the southern Kalahari Desert, which was identified by the Agency and which is currently being used by the South African Air Force as a target range. A number of environmental samples were taken in and around the Pelindaba and Kalahari sites.

IV. DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF THE ENRICHMENT PROJECTS

9. The current South African enrichment programme consists of the Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plant, which produces LEU, and a laser enrichment research and development project. The Pilot Enrichment Plant, which was used to produce HEU and LEU, has been decommissioned, and the centrifuge enrichment development programme has been abandoned.

10. The visit to the Pilot Enrichment Plant confirmed that the separation units in the high enriched stages of the plant had been dismantled and removed and that the rest of the plant had been decommissioned and partly dismantled. The building made available by the dismantling of the high enriched stages was being prepared for use in the laser enrichment project as a demonstration module, to be commissioned in 1993-1994. The decommissioned Pilot Enrichment Plant will continue to be visited by Agency inspectors to verify its status.

11. The team visited the Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plant, which produces LEU for the fuel elements for the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station. The Facility Attachment for the Semi-Commercial Plant is being negotiated with AEC, and it is expected that it will enter into force by the end of this year.

12. The team visited the laboratories and other buildings used in the centrifuge development programme, which AEC stated had been abandoned in 1991 to enable resources to be concentrated on the molecular laser isotope separation project (MLIS). The centrifuge development programme had included the use of aluminium components, maraging steel components and rotors, and carbon fibre rotors. The team saw a number of rotors, the associated test stands and other components and equipment and visited the hall where the proposed, but now abandoned, 48 centrifuge cascade was to have been installed. The team also visited a number of other locations on the Pelindaba site used in the past in the centrifuge programme, either for the fabrication of aluminium components or for centrifuge testing. At all of the locations visited, the centrifuge programme had been discontinued.

13. AEC is now concentrating its enrichment development programme on the molecular laser route. The team visited various laboratories used for the project, as well as the site for the first demonstration module, which is

planned to start operating early in 1993. A pilot plant is scheduled to be commissioned in 1997. The laboratories where laser enrichment is being developed, and the demonstration module will be inspected in accordance with South Africa's NPT safeguards agreement.

V. PRODUCTION OF THE ENRICHMENT, CONVERSION AND FABRICATION PLANTS

14. AEC provided the team with historical accounting and operating data relating to the production of enriched and depleted uranium by the Pilot Enrichment Plant. AEC stated that commissioning of the plant had started at the end of 1974 as the various enrichment stages and buildings became available, and that the production of HEU had started in January 1978 and ended in November 1989. The production of enriched uranium was suspended between August 1979 and July 1981 as a result of technical problems. Production thereafter fluctuated depending on the operational situation, e.g., the introduction of improved separating elements, withdrawal of LEU for the production of Koeberg fuel elements, and for a short period, feeding with depleted uranium. The operating records were examined by the Agency team and Agency inspectors and were found to be consistent with the AEC statements.

15. From the accounting data made available by AEC, the team calculated the U-235 balance of the Pilot Enrichment Plant. The team's calculations showed an apparent discrepancy in this balance. This may be the result of the material accountancy system, since, while the methods used to account for the enriched uranium product were in line with contemporary safeguards accounting methods, no formal measurement control programme had existed for the depleted uranium product, which was a major component of the U-235 balance. This situation, according to AEC, reflected the low financial value put on the depleted uranium by the plant management. Examination of the records of transfers of material between facilities and the plant operating records (including data on electrical consumption; on plant, cascade and stage availability; plant operating parameters; and feed and product registers) showed these records to be internally consistent and consistent with the declared production of enriched uranium over the 15-year lifetime of the plant. In addition to the examination of records, the team carried out a large number of destructive and non-destructive analyses on the enriched and depleted uranium produced by the plant.

16. Some of the HEU produced in the Pilot Enrichment Plant was used to upgrade imported LEU and domestic natural uranium to the enrichment required for the Koeberg fuel, some was converted to uranium metal and some of this had been used to fabricate fuel for the SAFARI Reactor. This SAFARI fuel and the remainder of the HEU are present in the initial report in various chemical and physical forms and enrichments. The accounting records for the HEU conversion and fabrication plants were examined and a balance was made. The results show that the amount of HEU included in the initial report is consistent with the amount stated to have been transferred to the conversion and fabrication plants during the lifetime of the Pilot Enrichment Plant. AEC stated that

blending operations, which will result in the downgrading of a certain amount of uranium from HEU to LEU enriched to less than 5 per cent U-235, are to start in September 1992. These operations will be observed and verified by Agency inspectors.

17. The operating and accounting records relating to the production of LEU in the Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plant were examined by members of the team and by Agency inspectors. Commissioning of the plant started in June 1984, but full cascade operation did not start until August 1988. The plant was reported to have been in operation since that date, except for extended interruptions in production between January 1990 and January 1991. The U-235 balance for the plant as calculated by the team shows an apparent discrepancy. Given the degree of uncertainty in the measurements used at the time, this discrepancy may have arisen, as in the case of the Pilot Enrichment Plant, from the material accounting system.

18. Material balances used to be made by AEC for the two enrichment plants and the results reported to the AEC Management Board. This was done in conjunction with financial audits and was principally aimed at the financial aspects of material transfers and losses, with particular emphasis on the HEU product. The accuracy of the physical inventory was impaired by such factors as the non-availability of suitable instruments to measure process hold-ups, the unwillingness of the plant management to interrupt production in order to drain condensers or to transfer material to measuremens points and the lack of comprehensive measurement control programmes. The calculated values of material unaccounted for (MUF) for each year of operation were provided to the team by AEC, but were not taken into account in the evaluation of the U-235 balances in view of the uncertainties associated with their determination.

19. The accounting records relating to the conversion and fabrication of fuel for the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station from the LEU produced in the Pilot and Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plants were examined and a balance made. The results show that the amount of LEU included in the initial report is consistent with the amount recorded as transferred to these plants and the amounts stated to have been imported.

VI. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF URANIUM

20. AEC informed the team that, prior to September 1991, with the exception of uranium in the form of yellow-cake, all exports of nuclear material had been notified to the Agency. These exports included gram quantities exported to the Agency as samples, irradiated fuel for the SAFARI Research Reactor returned to the United States of America and fuel for the decommissioned Pelinduna Critical Assembly exported to the United States of America via the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1971.

21. HEU fuel elements for the SAFARI Research Reactor were first imported in 1965 under INFCIRC/98; and low enriched Koeberg fuel was first imported in 1982 under INFCIRC/244.

22. AEC provided information on a quantity of unsafeguarded LEU which had been imported in 1981 for use in Koeberg fuel elements. They stated that some of the imported LEU had been upgraded by blending with HEU produced in the Pilot Enrichment Plant and with LEU produced in the Semi-Commercial Plant. The blended material was subsequently fabricated into Koeberg fuel elements. The records examined by the Agency supported AEC's statements. The remainder of the imported uranium hexafluoride was included as such in the initial report. The team found no evidence, through the analysis of samples, that imported LEU had been used as feed for the enrichment plants.

23. A quantity of natural uranium was imported for use as feed for the Pilot Enrichment Plant during the period up to 1979. Similarly, a quantity of depleted uranium was also stated by AEC to have been imported for a variety of nuclear and non-nuclear uses.

24. AEC wished to keep confidential the identity of the suppliers of imported, previously unsafeguarded, depleted, natural and low enriched uranium, and, as a consequence, the shipping documents were not made available to the team for examination.

VII. LOCATIONS OTHER THAN THE PELINDABA SITE

25. The team visited the ore concentrate conversion facility near Johannesburg operated by the Nuclear Fuels Corporation (NUFCOR). The plant converts ammonium diuranate slurry from South African gold mines into impure uranium oxide (yellow-cake). A smaller ore concentrate plant belonging to the Palabora Mining Company at Phalaborwa, Transvaal, was not visited by the team. The nuclear material at these facilities is subject to safeguards under the South African NPT safeguards agreement, but neither the facilities nor the material are required to be included in the facilities list or the initial report because, pursuant to article 34 of INFCIRC/394, the full safeguards procedures of reports and inspections are not applied to material at this stage of the fuel cycle.

26. The team visited the National Waste Repository of AEC at Vaalputs in the north-western Cape Province. The facility is not yet used for the storage of uranium waste and is currently used for the storage of low-level and intermediate-level wastes from the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station and from other locations (e.g. hospitals). A small quantity of depleted uranium metal contained in an item of geological equipment is also stored there. Uranium-containing wastes from Pelindaba will be transferred to Vaalputs in the near future, and consideration is being given to the construction at Vaalputs of a long-term store for spent fuel elements from Koeberg.

27. On the basis of information received, the team requested a visit to a location at Vastrap in the Kalahari Desert that is owned by the South African Defence Force and is currently used by the South African Air Force as a target range. At the location, the team saw a building with a square cross-section approximately 20 metres wide and constructed of corrugated metal on a concrete

floor. The team was told that the building was used by the Air Force for storage and as a workshop. On the floor at one side of the building was a large concrete ramp which appeared to have been cast in situ. A number of environmental samples were taken in and around the building. The team found no evidence that the location has been or is being used for the testing of nuclear explosive devices.

28. Similarly, a location, Building 5000, on the south-western part of the Pelindaba site was visited. The building was stated to have been used as a general purpose critical facility by the AEC's Reactor Development Group, which was disbanded several years ago. According to AEC the facility itself was abandoned in the early 1980s. This was evident from the condition of the building, which was found to be unoccupied and appeared to have been out of use for many years, except for the storage of a small quantity of radio-active waste and redundant equipment, all of which was stated to have originated from elsewhere on the Pelindaba site. A number of environmental samples were taken in and around the building.

29. AEC stated that in the past a site had been selected for the construction of a research reactor in the area of Mosselbay, Cape Province, and that the project had later been abandoned. Since no construction work had taken place the team did not visit the site.

VIII. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

30. With the cooperation of the South African authorities the team was able to visit all the locations it asked to see (see appendices I and II). On the basis of these visits and the information made available to it, the team found no evidence that the list of facilities and locations outside facilities provided by South Africa in its initial report, as required by the safeguards agreement, was incomplete. Moreover the secretariat is not in possession of any other information suggesting the existence of any undeclared facilities or nuclear material. The South African authorities have indicated their willingness, corresponding to their stated policy of transparency, to facilitate, as in the past, access to any locations that the Agency may specifically request. Naturally, if relevant information were obtained suggesting the need for access to any facilities, locations or data, the Agency would request such access.

31. The team evaluated the historical accounting and operating records of the two enrichment plants and the accounting records of the conversion and fabrication plants provided by AEC. A large number of non-destructive and destructive measurements were made on various types of material. The amount of enriched and depleted uranium included in the initial report is considered to be consistent with these historical records, taking into consideration the inherent difficulties associated with the evaluation of historical data extending over a period of 15 years and the quality of the nuclear material accountancy system in use during that time. The team found no evidence that the inventory of nuclear material included in the initial report was incomplete.

APPENDIX I

Nuclear facilities and locations outside facilities included in the initial report (30 September 1991) and reproduced in the Agency's annual report for 1991

1. Power reactors (owned and operated by Eskom)

   Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (2 units)

2. Research reactor (owned and operated by AEC)

   SAFARI-1

3. Conversion plants (owned and operated by AEC)

   Uranium Conversion Plant*

4. Fuel fabrication plants (owned and operated by AEC)

   PWR Fuel Fabrication Plant*
   MTR Fuel Fabrication Plant*

5. Enrichment plants (owned and operated by AEC)

   Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plant*

6. Other facilities (owned and operated by AEC)

   Decommissioned Pilot Enrichment Plant*
   Hot Cell Complex
   Decontamination and Waste Recovery Plant*
   Natural and Depleted Uranium Processing Plant
   Molecular Laser Isotope Separation Laboratory*
   Central Analytical Laboratory
   Nuclear Waste Technology Laboratory

7. Separate storage facilities (owned and operated by AEC)

   Waste Storage Facility (Radiation Hill)*
   Vaalputs National Waste Repository*

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* Facilities and installations visited by the team.

APPENDIX II

Other installations visited by the Agency team

1. Laboratories, workshops and stores (owned and operated by AEC)

Facility for the production of separating elements for the Semi-Commercial Enrichment Plant
Stores: Enrichment Plant Components
Electrical Maintenance Workshop
Mechanical Production Workshop
Laser Research Laboratory
Decommissioned Centrifuge Laboratory and Demonstration Cascade
Centrifuge Component Stores
MLIS Demonstration Facility (under construction)
Building 5000 used for the abandoned general purpose critical facility

2. Uranium Ore Concentration Plant (owned and operated by NUFCOR)

NUFCOR Works

3. Location in the Kalahari Desert (Target range currently operated by the South African Air Force)

Vastrap, North of Upington

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RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Secretary-General was requested to submit an annual progress report to the General Assembly, starting with its forty-seventh session, on the implementation of the result of the restructuring and revitalization process in the economic, social and related fields. He was requested further to provide information on any recommendation agreed upon which had not been implemented as scheduled. In the same annex, the Secretary-General was requested to review the structure of the Secretariat in the economic, social and related fields and to streamline Secretariat operations in those fields in order to reinforce the restructuring and revitalization process directed by the Assembly and to report thereon, with recommendations as appropriate, to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to implement the recommendations addressed to him and to report thereon.

2. The General Assembly also decided to conduct a review at its forty-seventh session of ways of enhancing the complementarity between the work of the Economic and Social Council and that of the Assembly in accordance with Article 60 of the Charter of the United Nations. The General Assembly is due to conduct that review in the context of the agenda item on restructuring and revitalization. The Secretary-General was not requested by the Assembly to submit a report on the issue of complementarity to the Assembly.

3. In its resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992, the General Assembly took a number of actions to enhance the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields. In the annex to the resolution, the Assembly stated that the effectiveness of the regional commissions should be strengthened and requested the commissions to provide recommendations towards this end for consideration by the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, it requested the Secretary-General to implement the restructuring measures as contained in the annex to the resolution and to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the action he has taken.

4. A number of issues relevant to the implementation of resolution 45/264 and related General Assembly resolutions were dealt with by the Secretary-General in his report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992 on the subject of revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, 1/ including the continued implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 of 29 July 1988, 1989/114 of 28 July 1989, 1990/69 of 27 July 1990 and Council decision 1990/205 of 9 February 1990.

5. The present report has been organized on the basis of the format of the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/264.

II. MEASURES FOR THE RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

6. In paragraph 5 (b) of the annex to resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that the Economic and Social Council should hold an organizational session not to exceed four days in New York in early February to determine its annual agenda and related organizational matters, taking into account the relevant provisions of the resolutions and decision mentioned in paragraph 4 above, particularly on the themes to be discussed in the high-level segment. The organizational session is also to select themes for the coordination segment, taking into account, inter alia, the recommendations of the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). Moreover, confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions takes place during the organizational session. Elections, appointments and confirmations are to take place during a resumed organizational session of one or two days at the end of April.

7. At the 1992 organizational session of the Economic and Social Council, which took place from 5 to 7 February, the Council conducted extensive informal consultations on the agenda before it. As a result, the Council needed to hold only two formal meetings to dispose of its agenda. The Council, having taken into account the recommendations of the joint meetings of CPC and ACC of 1991, selected two themes for the coordination segment, namely, eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including assistance during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes, and the prevention and control of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and programmes addressed to the mitigation of its negative socio-economic consequences. On 6 February, the Council confirmed the nominations by their Governments of the representatives on functional commissions of the Council and, exceptionally, elected 40 Member States to the new Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 13 new Member States to the enlarged Commission on Narcotic Drugs and 6 new Member States to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. Regular elections, appointments and confirmations took place at the Council's resumed organizational session, which was held on 29 and 30 April 1992.

8. A number of issues have emerged affecting the full implementation of these recommendations. In this regard, it may be noted that with the establishment of a coordination segment by the Council, a high-level dialogue between the executive heads of the agencies and Member States now takes place, in that context, on a regular basis. It would, therefore, seem appropriate to review the arrangements for the ACC/CPC Joint Meetings which might now be more appropriately held at the senior official level. Also, the Secretary-General remains concerned at the arrangement by which the themes for the coordination segment are selected in the same year that the Council will consider them. In his previously cited report to the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General stated his belief that:

"it would be useful to maintain a multi-year work programme in respect of themes for the coordination segment. General Assembly resolution 45/264 anticipates that discussions on the themes should focus attention on the activities of the United Nations system in selected economic and social areas, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General as Chairman of ACC, which should contain a system-wide assessment of the status of coordination with regard to the themes and include recommendations as appropriate. The Secretary-General has been constrained in preparing the system-wide assessments on the selected coordination themes for 1992 owing to the relatively short time between the organizational session of the Council at the beginning of February 1992, at which time the Council selected the themes, and the commencement of the substantive session of the Council at the end of June 1992. The limited time placed at his disposal has made it difficult to engage in system-wide collection and analysis of data and consultations with the specialized agencies or in the identification of recommendations, which the Council would expect such reports to contain. As it is, the reports have not been made available six weeks or sufficiently before the opening of the Council, which is a matter for regret. The Secretary-General would therefore wish to suggest to the Council that it retain a multi-year work programme of themes on a roll-over basis with respect to the discussions to take place in the coordination segment of the Council." 2/

The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate his views on the matter.

9. Experience has also suggested that it is not practical to confine elections, appointments and confirmations to a resumed organizational session at the end of April. This is due to the fact that in numerous instances regional groups have not been in a position to supply a full slate of candidates for particular subsidiary bodies at the time of the elections in April. If this provision is to be strictly maintained, it would mean that a number of subsidiary bodies of the Council would meet in the spring of 1993, prior to the resumed organizational session of 1993, with many of their seats unfilled. Accordingly, the Secretary-General arranged to also hold elections, appointments and confirmations at the organizational and at the substantive sessions of the Council of 1992. The Secretary-General plans to propose that the Council similarly dispose of postponed elections, appointments and confirmations at its organizational session of February 1993.

10. In paragraph 5 (c) of the annex to resolution 45/264, the General Assembly mandated one substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of four to five weeks to take place in alternate years in New York and Geneva between May and July. The substantive session of the Council of 1992 took place from 29 June to 30 July. It should be noted that some delegations continue to express a preference to hold the session earlier in the year. The Secretary-General believes that that would be practical only if significant adjustments to the calendar of conferences could be effected. At present the subsidiary bodies of the Council, as well as the Governing Council of the

United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, meet between February and June of each year. (A suitable time will have to be found in the future for the meetings of the proposed Commission for Sustainable Development in that same time span.) Bearing in mind the large number of bodies that have to meet (some 14 subsidiary bodies in the first four months of 1993), it is simply not possible to fit their meetings into the present calendar and also allow the Council to meet in May with the reports of subsidiary bodies ready for the Council's consideration. Furthermore, a May starting time for the Council will not allow sufficient time for preparation of reports being submitted to the high-level and coordination segments of the Council unless the calendar for deciding on the themes for these two segments is adjusted as well.

III. HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

11. In paragraph 5 (d) (i) of the annex to its resolution 45/264, the Assembly decided that a high-level segment of the Council of four days open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, with ministerial participation, should be devoted to "the consideration of one or more major economic and/or social policy themes to be determined at the organizational session, taking into account the Economic and Social Council multi-year work programme; adequate Secretariat preparation, including, in particular, one comprehensive background document for each theme; debate to follow an integrated and interdisciplinary approach; heads of the relevant organizations, agencies and other organs to participate actively".

12. The Council's first experiment with the holding of a high-level segment is generally regarded as having been successful. The Secretary-General appreciated the opportunity which it afforded for a useful exchange of views with members of the Council in the light of his report on "Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system", 3/ particularly its foreword. Delegations prepared thoroughly for the session. A number of Ministers and other senior officials from capitals attended the high-level segment.

13. In order to enhance further the value of the high-level segment, it may well be necessary to organize the segment in such a way that less time is devoted to formal statements and more time employed to genuine debate, perhaps in an informal setting. Statements could be circulated in advance and the time allocated for the delivery of formal statements thereby reduced. It would also seem best to continue to limit the high-level segment to one theme so as to permit proper preparation and clear focus, while ensuring that high-level officials from capitals will remain for the duration of the segment. However, there will need to be a broadening of the geographic regions from which the Ministers come if the high-level segment is to continue to attract ministerial participation. At the high-level segment of this year, it was noteworthy that the preponderance of Ministers participating came from the industrialized countries.

14. In paragraph 5 (d) (i) of the annex to resolution 45/264, the General Assembly further stated that a one-day policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation should be held annually. In this context, heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system were invited to participate actively in the dialogue and discussion on matters of mutual interest with a view to building areas of understanding.

15. The one-day policy dialogue and discussion for 1992 was arranged and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the resolution. The one-day event met the intent of the resolution and allowed for an important and stimulating dialogue on the main issues relating to macroeconomic policy coordination. The executive heads of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development were all present for the discussion and participated actively. A point for consideration in the future is whether a specific theme or themes for the one-day policy dialogue should be agreed upon in advance in order to achieve a better focus discussion.

16. In paragraph 5 (d) (i) of the annex to resolution 45/264, the Assembly also stated that the main features of the deliberations of the high-level segment would be presented to the Economic and Social Council by its President in the form of a summary, which would be incorporated in its final report. (For the 1992 summary of the President, see A/47/3, chap. II, para. 30.) It is also proposed that the deliberations of the high-level segment should provide political impetus for building areas of convergence and facilitate the consideration of the issues in question, including the emergence of new recommendations on the issues, in the relevant forums.

17. Following the conclusion of the high-level segment and in accordance with the relevant provision in the resolution, the President of the Economic and Social Council presented a summary on the work of the high-level segment. The summary was received with general satisfaction by the members of the Council. It would appear that the summary also provided "political impetus for building areas for convergence" and facilitated "the consideration of the issues in question, including the emergence of new recommendations on the issues", as anticipated in General Assembly resolution 45/264. Emerging from the deliberations was a consensus that the subject of the role of the United Nations system in enhancing economic cooperation for development needed to be further pursued, as a result of which the President was able to announce the establishment of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to continue deliberations on the matter.

IV. COORDINATION SEGMENT

18. In accordance with the requirements of General Assembly resolution 45/264, the Secretary-General presented two reports on system-wide coordination themes for consideration by the Economic and Social Council in its coordination segment. These reports were "Policies and activities

relating to assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including assistance during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes" 4/ and "Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and programmes addressed to the mitigation of its negative socio-economic consequences" 5/. Some executive heads personally addressed the coordination segment. The reports and statements stimulated a lively discussion in the Council, which took place, for the most part, in an informal setting and allowed for a useful and candid exchange of views between members of the Council and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system.

19. There is still room for improvement in the organization of the coordination segment if the recommendations of resolution 45/264 are to be fully implemented. The Economic and Social Council did not adopt formal recommendations as a result of the discussions in the coordination segment. The President on his own authority made statements on both the coordination themes. While the statements contained recommendations in a number of areas which will be forwarded to the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system for review, members of the Council made clear that the statement did not reflect a formal conclusion of the Council. Consequently, the outcome of the coordination segment was not as authoritative as it might otherwise have been.

V. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

20. The operational activities segment did not result in policy recommendations on the coordination of operational activities on a system-wide basis as envisaged in resolution 45/264. One positive outcome of the segment, none the less, was the stimulating informal exchange of views between members of the Council and senior officials from the United Nations organizations responsible for operational activities.

21. The outcome of the operational activities segment confirms the comment made in the Secretary-General's report on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council that "the decision to provide a specific institutional focus for considering operational activities through the establishment of an operational activities segment of the Council is an indication that the Council is still seeking ways and means to best fulfil its responsibilities in this area. More thought may yet need to be given by the Council as to how to strengthen its institutional capacity to deal with the issue of operational activities for development of the United Nations system". 6/ In this context, reference may also be made to a number of proposals made by individual delegations or groups of delegations at the high-level segment of the Council regarding the role of the Council vis-à-vis operational activities.

VI. COMMITTEE SEGMENT

22. The experience of the committee segment of the Council of 1992 suggests strongly that further consideration needs to be given to the agenda before the Economic and Social Committees of the Council as well as to their methods of work. There is undoubtedly a degree of justified frustration among members about whether it is necessary to repeat discussions on the same issues on four separate occasions during the same calendar year, namely: (a) during the session of the particular subsidiary body of the Council; (b) during the sessional committee concerned; (c) at the level of the plenary of the Council itself; and (d) during the General Assembly. In this regard, it would appear beneficial for the Economic and Social Council to agree to eliminate certain levels of discussion on the same subject where repetition of discussion does not affect the eventual result to any serious degree. One possibility would be to eliminate the committee segment and to discuss all agenda items in the plenary of the Council itself. The potential drawback to this solution is that the Council's substantive session may have to be extended to eight weeks for the plenary to consider all the items before it, which might not necessarily prove to be productive. Any solution to the problem, whether through the elimination of the committee segment or other means, should be accompanied by an overall review by the Council of its agenda. The Council could decide, for example, to remove items which are duplicative of the agenda of the General Assembly.

VII. SUBSIDIARY MACHINERY IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

23. In paragraph 6 (3) of the annex to resolution 45/264, the General Assembly mandated "a review at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly". In accordance with that resolution, the Assembly reviewed this question at its forty-sixth session and adopted resolution 46/235 entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields". In that resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to implement restructuring measures concerning subsidiary bodies identified for restructuring and revitalization and to report to the General Assembly as its forty-seventh session on the action he has taken.

24. The General Assembly, in resolution 46/235, proposed, inter alia, that the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (both subsidiary bodies of the Assembly), and the Committee on Natural Resources (a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council) would be discontinued. The authority to discontinue the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy was contained in resolution 46/235. With regard to the Committee on Natural Resources, the Secretary-General brought this recommendation to the attention of the Council at its resumed organizational session of February 1992, as a result of which

the Council, by decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, abolished the Committee. Assembly resolution 46/235 also mandated the establishment by the Council of new bodies in the fields of science and technology for development, natural resources and the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy and energy for development. Accordingly, the Secretary-General brought these recommendations to the attention of the Council at its resumed organizational session of 1992, as a result of which the Council, by its decision 1992/218, formally established a Commission on Science and Technology for Development, a Committee on Natural Resources and a Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development. At its substantive session of 1992, the Council agreed on the terms of reference of the new bodies and decided on the specific regional allocation of seats for each of the bodies (decision 1992/222 of 22 May 1992). During the substantive session of 1992, the Council held elections for membership in the new bodies.

VIII. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

25. In the annex to resolution 46/235, the General Assembly determined, inter alia, that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and that their effectiveness should be strengthened. In this context, the regional commissions were requested to provide recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The recommendations which have been developed in this regard are contained in the annex to the present document.

IX. SECRETARIAT

26. Issues concerning the review of the structure of the Secretariat in the economic, social and related fields and the streamlining of Secretariat operations referred to in General Assembly resolution 45/264 were addressed in the Secretary-General's foreword to his report to the Economic and Social Council. 7/ Experience with the first phase of reorganization was being reviewed, while steps were being initiated to extend the reform effort to other parts of the economic and social sectors of the Organization. The document pointed out that a main consideration in the forthcoming phases of the reorganization - which will include adjustments, as required, in the new structures put in place in the first phase - will be the introduction of a more effective Organization-wide distribution of responsibilities and a better balance between functions performed at Headquarters and those that can best be carried out by the regional commissions and the United Nations programmes, based on clear priorities and a well-articulated sense of the comparative advantage of each. 8/

27. The changes introduced in the first phase of restructuring, including the consolidation of the various economic and social units of the Secretariat in New York into a single Department of Economic and Social Development, have been incorporated in the revised estimates presented to the General Assembly

(A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1). In addition, the Secretary-General is to report to the Assembly at its current session on institutional arrangements within the Secretariat for the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Secretary-General will, in that context, also inform the Assembly of the further measures he intends to introduce to streamline structures and achieve greater coherence and impact of Secretariat activities in support of development in line with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 45/264.

Notes

1/ E/1992/86.

2/ Ibid., para. 6.

3/ E/1992/82 and Add.1.

4/ E/1992/47.

5/ E/1992/67.

6/ E/1992/86, para. 13.

7/ E/1992/82/Add.1.

8/ Ibid., para. 31.

ANNEX

Recommendations of the regional commissions on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/235

1. In paragraph 6 of the annex to its resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the General Assembly called for the regional commissions to be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and for the strengthening of their effectiveness. It also requested the regional commissions, in this context, to provide recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. Each of the five regional commissions has responded to this request by the General Assembly as follows:

(a) ECE: The Economic Commission for Europe adopted, at a special session on 5 October 1992, resolution 1 (1992-S) on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields: Strengthening the role and functions of the regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Europe;

(b) ESCAP: The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, through its resolution 48/12 of 23 April 1992, directed the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) to seek the views of members and associate members and to draft a response to the General Assembly. ACPR, on 21 September 1992, agreed to its response to General Assembly resolution 46/235 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

(c) ECLAC: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted, on 15 April 1992, resolution 520 (XXIV) on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) ECA: The Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa adopted, on 22 April 1992, resolution 728 (XXVII) on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: strengthening the role and functions of the regional commissions, and resolution 726 (XXVII) on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s;

(e) ESCWA: The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted, on 2 September 1992, resolution 191 (XVI) on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

3. The texts of the above resolutions and responses are reproduced below.

I. RESOLUTION 1 (1992-S) ENTITLED "RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, PARTICULARLY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE", ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE ON 5 OCTOBER 1992

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and noting in its paragraph 6 that the regional commissions are requested to provide recommendations, for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, on strengthening their effectiveness,

Bearing in mind its mandate, for raising the level of European economic activity and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world, and conscious of its role as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level,

Noting that the ECE membership has increased from 34 in 1990 to 43 at the present time, among them a considerable number of newly independent States, a further increase being likely to occur,

Aware that this recent development adds a new dimension to the Commission and has placed new and urgent demands on ECE and its secretariat, in terms of economic cooperation and assistance, in particular in the context of the transition process,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation in the economic and related fields within the framework of ECE constitutes a major contribution from the United Nations system to the efforts presently undertaken in the region to assist countries in their transition to market economies and their integration into the world economy, and represents an important contribution to global economic and social development,

Taking into account the increased efforts made by the international community to assist the economies in transition by actions taken in other fora such as, among others, IMF, IBRD, EBRD, OECD and the G24,

Noting the recognition by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in its Charter of Paris for a New Europe (November 1990) and in its Helsinki Summit Declaration and Decisions (July 1992) of "a key role" to be played by ECE, together with EBRD and OECD, in the construction of a new Europe,

Convinced of the necessity to ensure, in response to Economic and Social Council decision 1992/43, that all ECE member States can participate fully and effectively in the work of the Commission,

1. Draws the attention of the General Assembly to the following elements:

(a) The comparative advantages of ECE as a multilateral forum for all-European cooperation in the economic and related fields, with an important trans-Atlantic dimension, where all member States participate on an equal footing; the longevity of cooperation among all countries of ECE region, which has over the years provided ECE with a profound knowledge of those countries, their problems and their priorities; its well-established intergovernmental machinery and network of government contacts; and its capacity for an interdisciplinary approach and for the adaptation of its programme of work;

(b) The important contribution made by ECE to the process of restructuring and the revitalization of the regional commissions of the United Nations, called for in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 45/264, through its decisions O (45) and P (45) adopted, on 14 December 1990, in response to the rapid and radical changes in the region after an in-depth review of its programme and methods of work, namely by establishing five priority areas of work and by streamlining the structure and the activities of the Commission;

(c) The necessity to strengthen the cooperation and the coordination of activities between ECE and other international organizations, institutions and programmes both within and outside the United Nations system in order to avoid duplication of work and to ensure optimal use of resources;

2. Stresses:

(a) The concern of the ECE member States regarding the timely provision of adequate resources for servicing of the priority sectors of ECE, requested in its decision B (47), and hindered by the temporary suspension of external recruitment; the protracted procedure for the appointment of staff; and delays in the allotment in ECE's budgetary allocation;

(b) The importance of a speedy and effective implementation of the ECE programme in favour of the countries in transition initiated by ECE decisions D (45), O (45) and D (47), and the need to explore ways and means of releasing and obtaining adequate resources for this programme;

3. Recommends, in the light of the experience gained by ECE since its internal restructuring and revitalization process started in December 1990 and in order to continue in the future to fulfil efficiently its mandate, that the following measures should be taken:

(a) As recommended in paragraph 26, section IV, of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197, the necessary authority should be delegated from

Headquarters to ECE and adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made to enable ECE to implement its mandated programme of work and to discharge its responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level within the United Nations system, in close cooperation with the efforts undertaken by other relevant international bodies;

(b) In order to avoid duplication of work under way in ECE by other United Nations programmes and to ensure a more rational use of available resources, action should be taken to achieve a more effective distribution of responsibilities and a better balance of functions between ECE, on the one hand, and Headquarters and global programmes outside Headquarters, on the other hand;

(c) The results of ECE activities should continue to constitute regional inputs for global policy-making processes and conferences of the competent United Nations organs, and ECE should be invited to participate fully in the regional implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by those organs;

(d) The results of ECE's programme and operational project activities, wherever appropriate, should continue to be made available for the benefit of the countries of the other regions, by means of a strengthened outreach programme, such as UN/EDIFACT, and interregional cooperation with the other regional commissions and the global programmes of the United Nations;

4. Also recommends that the activities undertaken at the regional level, in the economic, social and related fields, by relevant United Nations organs, be regularly and efficiently evaluated, in order to reach a high quality of work and an efficient use of available resources;

5. Decides to transmit this resolution to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations as a contribution of ECE for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields being currently undertaken by the General Assembly.

II. RESPONSE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/235 ON RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

At its forty-eighth session held at Beijing in April 1992, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of General Assembly resolution 46/235 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. It focused its discussion on paragraph 6 of the annex to that resolution, in which the regional commissions were requested to provide recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

In view of the need for comprehensive study, the Commission, through its resolution 48/12, directed the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) to seek the views of members and associate members and to draft a response to the General Assembly. ACPR, after receiving responses to the letter sent by the Executive Secretary on its behalf, agreed to the points set out below.

1. Members and associate members of the Commission noted that the effectiveness of the regional commissions, particularly those located in developing countries, should be strengthened in terms of their activities and participation in the operational activities of the United Nations system.

2. In the restructuring and revitalization process under way in the economic and social fields of the United Nations, due consideration should be accorded to the usefulness of the regional, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach which has characterized the work of the Commission.

3. Strengthening the participation of regional commissions in the United Nations system would reflect their advantageous position in identifying common approaches and translating these into concrete proposals for all the parties concerned. They can also make a positive contribution in promoting constructive dialogue within the United Nations system regarding economic and social development issues.

4. The process of strengthening regional commissions and improving their responsiveness to the needs of members and associate members can be enhanced through further consensus-building, broad democratic participation, and transparency in all decision-making processes. The importance of political will and commitment in enhancing international cooperation, particularly in the United Nations system, should also be noted.

5. ESCAP members and associate members wish to emphasize to the General Assembly that the recent experience of the Commission in agreeing to, and commencing the implementation of, a new intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission represented an important contribution to both the restructuring in the ESCAP region and the United Nations system as a whole.

6. The new thematic approach will, in the view of ESCAP members and associate members, considerably improve the responsiveness of the Commission to the needs of members and associate members and therefore contribute to the revitalization of the United Nations. They also believe that this restructuring will contribute to an effective, as well as accountable and transparent, utilization of resources in achieving the goals of the Commission.

7. ESCAP members and associate members recognize that the strengthening of the role of the regional commissions must be accomplished despite zero growth in the regular budget of the United Nations, and must reflect the overall objective of an efficient organization, which underlies the restructuring and revitalization process.

8. The members and associate members of ESCAP, therefore, recommend that in the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields being undertaken by the General Assembly, the desirability of the following should be considered:

(a) Increased decentralization in the execution of activities in the new organizational structure of the United Nations, based on the concept that endeavours of the Organization in these fields can be carried out more efficiently and effectively at the regional and subregional levels;

(b) Enhanced access by the Commission to more of the resources under the regular programme of technical cooperation of the United Nations available under section 12 of its programme budget; and increased funding from programmes and agencies of the United Nations system for the regional technical cooperation activities of the Commission;

(c) Revised allocation to ESCAP of regular budget resources taking into account the region's share of the world population, geographical scope, expanding membership, considerable economic and social diversity, and active Commission programming, and efforts to restructure work programmes based on a thematic approach;

(d) Improved effectiveness of the technical cooperation activities provided by the United Nations to countries, through strengthening the technical and financial capacity of the Commission to undertake relevant and balanced operational activities and technical cooperation projects at the regional and subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission, by virtue of its mandate and in the light of its structural reorientation, is in a better position to respond effectively to the changing needs of the region;

(e) Improved coordination and Secretariat-wide coherence by reinforcing the activities of the regional commissions aimed at mutually supporting the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in their respective regions through, inter alia, intensifying joint activities, programming exercises and coordinating meetings;

(f) Clearly divided responsibilities between the regional commissions and the funding agencies of the United Nations on regional and subregional technical cooperation activities. In view of the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to reduce the UNDP and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) allocations for regional IPFs (indicative planning figures), regional and subregional programmes must be prioritized to avoid costly duplication, in the course of project formulation and subsequent implementation and monitoring;

(g) Mandating ESCAP as the primary executing agency for regional and subregional programmes, within the United Nations system, so as to centralize coordination tasks and reduce costs. Regional commissions have been designated as the lead coordinators of inter-agency functions and regional activities, and as the main general economic and social development centres

within the United Nations system for their respective regions for coordination at the regional and subregional levels. This mandate should not prevent the regional commissions from inviting other United Nations funding agencies to function as team leaders for specific programmes, when appropriate;

(h) Strengthening of the professional capacity of the Commission, so as to improve the technical response of ESCAP to specific needs and requests of developing countries, particularly the least developed, land-locked developing and island developing countries and in relation to new issues identified by the Commission of which transitional disadvantaged economies are examples;

(i) Establishing more pragmatic and flexible rules relating to the provision of non-reimbursable loan experts at the regional level so as to increase the will of donor countries to raise the level and importance of their contributions in kind in response to priority needs;

(j) With a view to strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of regional institutions under the auspices of ESCAP, consideration should be given to providing financial support from the United Nations regular budget;

(k) Broader participation in Commission sessions and regional intergovernmental meetings from countries facing onerous travel expenses through the provision of special travel funds from the regular budget for land-locked developing, least developed and Pacific island developing countries.

III. RESOLUTION 520 (XXIV) ENTITLED "RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS: ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN", ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON 15 APRIL 1992

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 40/237, 41/213 and 43/174 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 44/103 and 45/177 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields,

Bearing in mind also section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/264, which calls for a review of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to be carried out at the forty-sixth session of the Assembly with the objective of possible restructuring and revitalization and with a view to avoiding duplication,

Noting the steps already announced by the Secretary-General regarding the restructuring of the Secretariat in order to respond effectively to the challenges facing it,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 46/235,

Recalling Committee of the Whole resolution 419(PLEN.14) on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the ECLAC system, and resolution 489(PLEN.19) on the intergovernmental structure and functions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Re-emphasizing its conviction that the activities entrusted to the Commission by Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) are fully consistent with the development efforts of its member countries, within the broader context of a revitalized programme of the United Nations in the economic and social fields,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the effective work performed by the Commission and for its significant contribution to economic thinking and to Latin American and Caribbean development efforts in both the analytical and operational fields and in the realm of intraregional and international economic cooperation;

2. Expresses its conviction that the restructuring and revitalization process under way in the economic and social fields of the United Nations should accord due consideration to the usefulness of the regional, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach which has characterized the work of the Commission;

3. Recommends that the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields being currently undertaken by the General Assembly consider the desirability of:

(a) Increased decentralization in the execution of activities in the new organizational structure which is being created, based on the concept that the endeavours of the Organization in these fields can be carried out more efficiently and effectively at the field level on a regional and subregional basis;

(b) Improved coordination and Secretariat-wide coherence by reinforcing the activities of the regional commissions aimed at mutually supporting the activities of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in their respective regions through, inter alia, intensifying joint activities and emphasizing joint programming exercises and meetings;

(c) A clear division of responsibilities regarding regional technical cooperation activities between the regional commissions on the one hand and the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population

Fund on the other, in particular by requesting coordination prior to the submission of regional projects and activities to Governments;

(d) Improved effectiveness of the technical cooperation activities provided by the United Nations to countries - through the intermediary of the regular programme of technical cooperation - by decentralizing more of the resources allotted to the Commission under section 12 of the budget and by strengthening its capacity as an agency responsible for executing operational activities and technical cooperation projects at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the Commission, by virtue of its programme of work, is in a better position to take action;

4. Expresses the conviction that the simplicity of the intergovernmental structure of the ECLAC system (which includes ILPES and CELADE) and the procedure of holding meetings of the Commission in biennial sessions have proved to be effective in meeting the objectives of the Commission;

5. Decides to transmit this resolution, together with the relevant section of the report of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission and, as a background paper, the document entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of ECLAC" (LC/G.1716(SES.24/18)) to the intergovernmental bodies which are currently charged with the restructuring exercise.

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA ON 22 APRIL 1992

A. Resolution 728 (XXVII) entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: strengthening the role and functions of the regional commission"

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Commission as adopted by Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV) of 29 April 1958 and amended by its resolutions 974 D.I (XXXVI) of July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling further the Economic and Social Council's decision to endorse ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Bear g in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and

revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and those located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization process,

Convinced that the Economic Commission for Africa plays a vital catalytic role in the coordination and execution of intercountry programmes and projects aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and integration, especially by pursuing the establishment of the African Economic Community,

1. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the role of the regional economic commissions as important organs of the United Nations for promoting the socio-economic development of their respective regions;

2. Appeals to the Secretary-General that, in the context of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, due recognition is accorded to the vital role of the regional commissions.

B. Resolution 726 (XXVII) entitled "Strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990"

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Commission as adopted by Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV) of 29 April 1958 and amended by its resolutions 974 D.I (XXXVI) of July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling further the various resolutions that have implications on the mandate and operations of the Commission including, in particular, General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and General Assembly resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 44/211 of 21 December 1989,

Noting with appreciation the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 718 (XXVI) on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and those located in developing countries strengthened in the

context of the overall objectives of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization process,

Reiterating the validity of the general orientation of the work programme of the Commission as outlined in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, including the identified individual subprogrammes,

Convinced that the many and important changes that are taking place in the member States of the Commission, the international environment as well as in the United Nations system as a whole will necessitate new approaches by the Commission in carrying out its mandate and new relationships with its constituency and partners, with a view to increasing its impact,

Having examined the in-depth analysis made by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Commission as contained in document E/ECA/CM.18/4 entitled "The Economic Commission for Africa in the 1990s: a policy and management framework for facing Africa's development challenges",

1. Congratulates the Acting Executive Secretary of the Commission for the initiative he took to establish a Task Force to review and appraise the Commission's policy orientation, programmes and management capacity and for the excellent analysis of the pertinent issues and useful and innovative proposals he has made;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure that there is a clear and concrete balance between the research and operational activities of the secretariat of the Commission and to sharply focus all such activities of the Commission on the specific realities and characteristics of the African region and of individual subregions;

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure that its activities are fully grounded in sound data and information systems, through the strengthening of the Pan-African Development Information System, which should be provided with adequate financial resources;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to ascertain that the implementation of all subprogrammes contained in the work programme of the Commission is geared to the full attainment of the identified basic indicators of achievement of the objectives of the Commission with regard to: strengthening its advisory role on socio-economic questions; promoting regional cooperation and integration; enhancing the efficiency of the public sector; promoting private initiative and entrepreneurship; promoting the development, dissemination and utilization of science and technology; ensuring a desirable balance between food supply, population, human settlements and environment; fostering human-centred development; securing the structural transformation and diversification of African economies; and promotion of women in development;

5. Welcomes the process of frequent and close consultations of the secretariat with the member States and donors through the regular briefing sessions held with their representatives at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

6. Recommends the establishment, within existing resources, of a consultative mechanism that would advise the Executive Secretary on the grouping of conferences along specific themes, including scheduling and the preparation of conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops, taking into account the need to harmonize them with those of the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank, to avoid duplication and achieve greater efficiency;

7. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to explore every possibility of establishing or strengthening the relationships of the Commission with African intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies and non-governmental organizations including, in particular, the possibility of establishing joint units or special programmes with the various United Nations specialized agencies, and the creation of a special unit within the secretariat of the Commission to coordinate its increased joint activities with non-governmental organizations;

8. Expresses appreciation to the General Assembly for providing additional resources to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) and consequently recommends that in conformity with ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on transforming and strengthening the MULPOCs of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Centres should be further strengthened through redeployment of resources and be given specific assignments with respect to technical assistance and advisory services for the execution of joint projects of member States within the framework of the intergovernmental organizations, in their respective subregions, and thus be enabled to act as the major subregional focal points for the collection and dissemination of information on all aspects of economic cooperation and integration;

9. Also expresses its gratitude to the General Assembly for providing a grant to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning for funding four additional posts for the 1992-1993 biennium thus enabling the Institute to contribute to the process of strengthening the operational capacity of the Commission in meeting the challenges facing Africa in the 1990s, and requests the redeployment of resources which would enable the Institute to assume additional responsibility;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to undertake a thorough examination of the problems and constraints facing the ECA-sponsored institutions and subsequently to make concrete proposals aimed at alleviating their various problems including consideration of such options as the merging of some of the institutions;

11. Appeals to bilateral and multilateral donors to increase their financial and other forms of assistance to the Commission to enable it to shoulder its responsibilities to the member States by conducting extrabudgetary operational activities;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake, as may become necessary, reforms in the structure of the secretariat so as to achieve full consistency with the new orientations recommended herein so as to boost the efficiency and capability of the secretariat as an effective tool for the economic and social development of Africa;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the nineteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers and twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

V. RESOLUTION 191 (XVI) ENTITLED "RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS", ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1992

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and the leading role therein assigned to the regional commissions as regards the coordination of activities of the system within their regions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and in particular paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 46/235 concerning the strengthening of the regional commissions,

Recalling further the terms of reference of the Commission as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973,

Referring to Commission resolution 175 (XV) of 18 May 1989 on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Aware of the advantages to be derived from the capacity of the regional commissions in operational activities, particularly at the regional level,

Noting the steps already taken by the Secretary-General in restructuring the Secretariat,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the secretariat of the Commission has addressed the obstacles encountered as a result of recent events in the region, regaining a level of operations close to the pre-crisis level in a relatively short period of time;

2. Commends the secretariat for the valuable services rendered to countries of the region in convening major meetings, providing advisory services and preparing analytical reports;

3. Reiterates its conviction that the Commission has a central role to play within the United Nations system and in coordination with other concerned entities to improve economic and social conditions in the region;

4. Recommends that the potential of the Commission for coordinating, initiating and realizing development activities for the benefit of member States be strengthened;

5. Recommends also in this connection that the following objectives be made part of the process of the restructuring currently under way in the United Nations:

(a) Decentralization of those activities that could be more effectively undertaken by the regional commissions and of the human and financial resources required (e.g. as regards regional advisory services);

(b) Improvement of the arrangements for coordination of development activities carried out by parties inside and outside the United Nations system, through exchange of information among agencies and institutions involved;

(c) Promoting joint programming of the activities of the United Nations involving the regional commissions and active participation of the regional commissions in the programming and budgeting process as it relates to their activities, inter alia, thorough representation on the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board; a/

(d) Strengthening the role of the regional commissions as executing agencies for regional and subregional technical cooperation projects in particular;

(e) Confirmation of the distinction between funding and executing agencies;

(f) Pursuit of joint activities with other organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate;

6. Authorizes the Executive Secretary to reorganize the secretariat of the Commission in consultation with the Secretary-General to enhance the effectiveness of its activities;

7. Invites member States to replenish the Trust Fund for ESCWA Regional Activities in order to bolster the operational activities of ESCWA for the benefit of countries of the region and requests the Executive Secretary to follow up with member States;

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a/ With reference to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/1992/65, para. 169 (c)).

8. Decides to transmit the present resolution and the ESCWA report on the subject b/ to the intergovernmental bodies with the current restructuring process of the United Nations Secretariat.

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b/ E/ESCWA/16/10.